Responsibility for accident in Bombay-Howrah Mail

216. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statement attributed to him in some newspaper reports to the effect that his Ministry does not bear any responsibility for the gruesome accident on the Bombay-Howrah Mail at Chakradharpur in the last week of October is factually correct;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any enquiry or enquiries have already established where the accountability for the accident lies; and

(c) whether relatives of passengers who died in the accident were refused death certificates, thereby placing them in grave difficulty in arranging the cremation of dead bodies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Statutory inquiry into the accident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, who works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The cause of the accident will be known on receipt of the Final Report.

(c) The dead bodies of the passengers involved in train accidents are taken over by the police. Any certification required is done by the State Government authorities after post-mortem.

Introduction of instant action groups

217. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instant action groups on some important trains have recently been introduced by Railways Authorities;

(b) if so, what are the details of such trains; and

(c) what specific service will be discharged by the action groups?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 17 pairs of trains have been nominated for monitoring purposes.

(c) The Instant Action Groups have been formed to monitor the nominated trains specially at night hours with specific reference to attending to grievances of passengers 'on board ' as far as possible, preventing unauthorised passengers from travelling on reserved coaches on the train, to detect carriage of inflammable articles or items of suspicious nature on trains and take prompt corrective action thereon.

Details of expansion-cum-development plan chalked out for Suburban Services

218. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of expansion-cum-development plan chalked out for Western and Central Railway Suburban Services;

(b) what is the number and details of New EMU rakes proposed to be made available for Western Railway and Central section and when these are likely to be completed;

(c) what will be the total expenditure involved;

(d) whether there is any proposal to upgrade three car sheds at Kalwa, Kurla and Bhiwandi to look after the maintenance of 12 coaches rakes; and

(e) if so, what are the details and by when these are likely to be upgraded and at what cost?